



# Communiqué

de l'Ambassade des Etats-Unis

# de presse

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## **Democracy Video Challenge Press Release**

U.S. Embassy Antananarivo, with the Collaboration of the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture, Announces Launch of the Democracy Video Challenge.

Marking the United Nation's first International Day of Democracy on Monday, September 15, 2008, the Embassy of the United States of America, with the collaboration of the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture, announces the launch of the Democracy Video Challenge, a competition aimed at enhancing global dialogue on democracy by asking budding filmmakers, democracy advocates, youth, and other citizens of the world to create video shorts that complete the phrase "*Democracy is...*"

More than 70 countries have confirmed their participation in the contest, including Madagascar. An official launching ceremony was held on September 15, at the United Nations headquarters in New York City, attended by the Under Secretary of the U.S. Department of State, and senior representatives from all Challenge partner organizations.

Submissions will be accepted from now until January 31, 2009. During February – March 2009, a local panel will select the top Malagasy videos which will join a regional pool of semi-finalists. The winners will ultimately be selected by the online voting public and announced in June 2009. Six regional winners will be eligible to claim an all-expense paid trip to the United States that includes screenings of their videos in New York, Hollywood and Washington, meetings with film directors, public officials and democracy advocates from nongovernmental organizations, and time on film and TV sets.

YouTube is providing the video platform for the competition. Other partners for the online video contest include the United States Department of State, democracy and youth organizations, academia, and the news, film and entertainment industry. For more information about the Democracy Video Challenge, contact: The Public Affairs Section, U.S. Embassy Antananarivo at 22-212-57 or via email: [PASAntan@State.gov](mailto:PASAntan@State.gov) or visit the official website: [www.youtube.com/democracychallenge](http://www.youtube.com/democracychallenge).